

that, within little more than a quarter of a century, has not been adopted or proposed; though at the time the rights of property were successfully urged against it, and the combined laxity and profligacy of the government had left it neither energy nor means to combat opposition. But to revert to more tangible matter. The present, much more than any other intervening period since the year 1673, is one of church building; the fifty churches of London, exclusive of St. Paul's, built by Wren, are therefore likely to excite more than usual attention—fifty designs carried into execution and superintended, the greater number simultaneously, and the whole within twenty-five years, by one hand and one mind! Nor are these to be likened to the pany efforts of a builder of conventicles; we have before us a classification of them, for which, though we do not vouch, we believe to be in the main correct; ten have no further peculiarity than great solidity of workmanship; ten bear marks of the propriety and elegance which distinguish his more elaborate works; and ten are free restorations of churches destroyed by the great fire; ten in classic character and skill in design and execution, are equal to any of similar pretensions in Britain; and ten are deservedly celebrated for splendour of elevation, the geometrical accuracy of their towers and steeples, and the completeness of their interior arrangements. In the metropolis, the ordinary perambulations of every day present to view some or other of these fine buildings: St. Magnus, London Bridge; St. Stephen's, Wallbrook; St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside; St. Bride's, Fleet-street; St. Clement's, Dances, Strand; and St. Andrew's, Holborn, are two prominently placed to be out of ken of the most careless observer.

Turning from ecclesiastical to civil architecture, we find equally important memorials of talent and industry. Chelsea College, the retreat of the military veterans of the United Empire, owes its origin to the suggestions of Stephen Fox, the patriotic and worthy ancestor of the Holland family, who found means to stimulate even a Charles the Second to disburse from the usually scanty contents of his privy purse a considerable sum towards the building. Of this national institution Wren was not only the architect, but in his quality of commissioner prescribed the statutes and ordinances by which it has been so long successfully governed.

The palace at Winchester is, perhaps, next in order of date after Chelsea College; the king had a predilection for the spot, which he personally pointed out to the architect, and a building, destined never to be finished, was commenced. There are conflicting opinions upon the propriety of the style, as well as the choice of site; with the latter Wren had nothing to do; with the former just so much as to develop masses without the adjuncts of equilibrium and ornament to constitute the entirety he contemplated. Winchester Palace has been converted to meaner purposes than a king's lodging, having served as a depot for prisoners of war, and is now, we believe, a barrack for troops.

There are two other great efforts of Wren's genius worthy of study, though widely differing in style. Hampton Court and Greenwich Hospital will scarcely cease to be objects of popular admiration and delight from the facility with which they may be visited. We are indebted to Mary, consort of William III., both for the extension of the palace, and the erection and establishment of the naval hospital. At Hampton Court the architect appears to have been hampered by the opinions of the king, who was adverse to a design of far more splendid elevation and proportions preferred by the Queen; this interference with better taste decided the question, and the existing additions to the old palace built by Wolsey, were made; neither was the rough soldier, William, slow in growing the sharp he had taken in deciding the plan, for upon a notice by one of the courtiers about his person of the lowness of the cloisters under the palace, he is said to have turned upon his heel like a challenged sentinel, answering sharply, "Such were my express orders."

Greenwich Hospital was considered to be a free example of Wren's manner; he had, it is true, to adapt his plans to the structure already built by Charles II., and that by Inigo Jones, called the Queen's house, but there is an ab-

sence of constraint and a harmonious magnificence that confirm the integrity of the design. There are few who would not recognize in this structure the same conception that produced St. Paul's; his favorite feature, the dome, is preserved, and much of the detail is corroborative of the taste for classic architecture that pervaded his mind.

Many other public edifices were built by Wren; of these the late Royal Exchange is fresh in recollection; the library of Trinity College, Cambridge, and the chapel of Emanuel College were also executed by him; and a yet more important trust was confided to him in 1698 in the appointment he received of surveyor for the repair of Westminster Abbey. Here we may not omit to observe that his reports on the state of that building shew clearly the bias of his mind to have been inimical to the ancient style of church architecture; always a cautious man, he knew that these opinions could be more safely declared in 1700, than in 1673 and subsequent years, and he did not neglect, in these documents, to impinge both its principle and practice; the venerable edifice was in his hands, and he might have spared his exotic engraftings; but during this his last work, age was fast stealing upon him, and to say the least, the taste that could direct the restoration of the towers of the western front in the mixed and corrupt style they exhibit, had become vitiated.

Upon the accession of George I., after public, and often unpaid, services of fifty years, this eminent man was unfeelingly superseded in his office of surveyor-general, and he retired in his eighty-sixth year without remuneration or observation, either on his own part or that of his family, to pass the few remaining years of life at Hampton Court. Walpole says of him at this period, that "having lived to see the completion of St. Paul's, a fabric and an event which one cannot wonder left such an impression of content on the mind of the good old man, that being carried to see it once a year, it seemed to recal a memory that was almost deadened to every other use." For five years longer he was cherished by the solicitudes of his family; nature failed almost imperceptibly, but his end now approached, and was as peaceful as to have been at the moment unobserved. This event happened on the 26th February, 1723, in the ninety-first year of his age.

Contemporary writers of the time immediately following the death of Wren, are unanimous in eulogising his character. Professionally he kept in view the essentials of success, *beauty, usefulness, and durability*. Constant study of the classic styles, and an ardent seeking to apply them on the great scale, decided the decorative features of his buildings; an extensive acquaintance with the requirements of society secured appropriateness in whatever he undertook; and his familiarity with the sciences rendered him confident in his art. He never attained the extent in construction to which the application of geometrical principles would have led him; all his structures are, therefore, far within the limits usually acknowledged as those of safety and durability.

In private life he was amiable, and in disposition rather passive than obtrusive; kind and generous to his family and dependents, and esteemed, beyond precedent, in every circle to which his numerous acquirements had introduced him.

The oratorical powers of Wren were any thing but brilliant; his inauguration discourse on taking the professor's chair of astronomy at Gresham College, is highly figurative and somewhat bombastic. Of his writing little is extant, but it is far better than his oratory; we select a specimen paragraph, his opinion on architecture, from the *Porenalia*.

"Architecture bath its political uses; public buildings being the ornament of a country; it establishes a nation, draws people and commerce; makes the people love their country, which passion is the original of all great actions in a commonwealth. The emulation of the cities of Greece was the true cause of their greatness. The obstinate valour of the Jews, occasioned by the love of their temple, was a cement that held together that people for many ages, through infinite changes. The care of public decency and convenience was a great cause of the establishment of the Low Countries, and of many cities in the world. Modern

Rome subsists by the ruins and imitation of the old; as does Jerusalem by the Temple of the Sepulchre, and other remains of Helena's zeal."

Cor. Wren

He was buried under the dome of St. Paul's with the following laconic, but appropriate epitaph:—

"Si querat monumentum, circumspice."
"If you seek his monument, look around."

OUR CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR.—It would no doubt be desirable to many of your readers (who, like myself, are not well acquainted with the methods of warming and ventilating buildings) to have a more clear explanation of Mr. Hope's plan as given in your 10th number: whether the flues are formed with brick or metal, and also the connection they have with the stove, so as to obtain the desired effect. Any information on the above subject will oblige

Yours sincerely,

AN ARCHITECTURAL STUDENT.

Exeter, April 24th, 1843.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR.—When THE BUILDER was first announced, no one hailed its appearance with greater welcome than myself, and I may say, with your Yorkshire friend, that I have been like a walking advertisement, spreading it far and wide, being aware it would be a channel of union, conveying information of the most useful and practical kind, thereby informing the mind and bringing matter to and from individuals who would otherwise have remained in obscurity, and, like the rose, have spent their fragrance in the desert air; and it is with pleasure I see the opening bud expand, through every number that makes its appearance; therefore, far from me to take up its pages but for a practical purpose, but I think a little explanation is required, as regards myself and the public generally, in answer to Mr. Bernhardt's letter in your last number.

As regards the double and single acting stove, as given in No. 10, and its practicality for warming and ventilating buildings, as shewn in plans and sections, I do say it is altogether my own. I have for the last twenty years used some of the arrangements therein contained, and to a good and practical purpose; for instance: I have applied the cold air flue for ventilation, and to cure smoky chimneys, and it has scarcely ever failed; but the manner of application has been as situation or circumstances required. And as regards hot-air flues, I have used them with great success for a variety of purposes; but it will suffice to mention one. Some years ago, I fixed a common furnace-grate, under ground, the flues passing backwards and forwards under the floor of a room, the room above having a lattice-floor to allow of a free circulation of warm air; both rooms were heated to a great height for the purpose of drying lutes, and the desired object was completely effected, and coal of the very worst description was used. But it is only within the last six weeks that my attention has been turned to applying these different means to the ordinary stove, whereby the fire is kept to the principal rooms, and the otherwise waste heat applied to the rooms above, &c. I am not at all aware this is an infringement upon Mr. B.'s right, as what I have seen of his invention as regards the make of his stove or apparatus, there is no similarity whatever. I think no one would take them for twin brothers. Perhaps Mr. B. will throw some light upon the subject, and favour your subscribers with details and drawings of his plan in a future number of THE BUILDER, which I should be most happy to see, or otherwise we had better conclude with the wise man, "There is nothing new under the sun."

In answer to your Exeter correspondent, if it be worth his while, I have a rude model of my plan, which I shall be most happy to shew him. Apologizing for taking up so much of your valuable time and space.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. P. HORS,

Clerk of Works of the Wesleyan Theological

Institution, Richmond.

Richmond, April 26, 1843.

ETC.—We hear that the noble and almost unrivalled Early-English Barn, at Ely, has been recently demolished by the Dean and Chapter, on the ground that the repairs it required were too expensive. The loss of this building, one of the very few of that date now left in England, is irreparable. —*Ecclesiologist*.